REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-13 remain in the application.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Gokimoto et al. (USPN 4,484,776), Gokimoto et al. (USPN 4,627,656), Bolsworth et al. (USPN 5,282,662), Bolsworth et al. (USPN 5,393,116), and Glinter et al. (USPN 5,577,805).

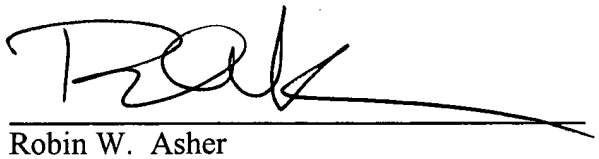
However, claims 2-13 are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 2. The dependency of claim 4 has also been amended to properly depend from claim 1. Therefore, each of the remaining claims 1 and 3-13 should be in immediate condition for allowance.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment for the purpose of clarifying the invention.

Accordingly, it is believed that the application is in condition for more favorable consideration and allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A seat assembly for use in an automotive vehicle comprising:

a seat cushion for supporting a seat occupant on said seat assembly;

a seat back operatively coupled to said seat cushion for pivotal movement between a generally upright seating position and a forwardly folded position pivoted against said seat cushion;

a seat back pivot mechanism coupled to said seat back and operable between a locked position locking said seat back in said upright seating position and an unlocked position for providing pivotal movement of said seat back between said upright seating position and said folded position;

a front seat riser adapted to secure said seat assembly to the vehicle, said front seat riser pivotally coupled to said seat cushion for pivoting said seat cushion between a generally horizontal seating position and a generally upright tumbled position;

a rear seat riser adapted to releasably secure said seat assembly to the vehicle, said rear seat riser including a locking latch operable between a latched position for releasably latching said rear seat riser to the vehicle with said seat cushion in said seating position and an unlatched position for releasing said rear seat riser from the vehicle to allow said seat cushion to pivot from said seating position to said tumble position; and

a blocking member coupled between said seat back and said locking latch, said blocking member [and] operable in a first blocking position for engaging said seat back in said upright seating position and preventing said locking latch from releasing from said latched position to said unlatched position when said seat back is locked by said seat back pivot mechanism in said upright seating position, and a second blocking position for engaging said seat back in said folded position when said locking latch is in said unlatched position and preventing pivotal movement of said seat back from said folded position to said seating position until said locking

latch is returned to said latched position latching said rear seat riser to the vehicle with said seat cushion in said seating position.

Claim 2 has been cancelled.

Claim 4 has been amended as follows:

4. (Amended) A seat assembly as set forth in claim 1 [2] further including a support bracket secured to said rear seat riser for supporting said seat back pivot mechanism between said seat back and said seat cushion and for supporting said blocking member between said locking latch and said seat back.